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Contributors, subscribers and readers will find important information on the sixteenth advertising page following the reading matter.

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"LET OUR OBJECT BE, OUR COUNTRY, OUR WHOLE COUNTRY, AND NOTHING BUT OUR COUNTRY."—WEBSTER.

A WAR MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT VAN ZWALENBURG.

The manner in which the medical profession has responded to the call for war service is cause for pride and gratification. Whether soliciting or contributing to war funds, whether making draft examinations or rendering gratuitous services to dependents of soldiers, called to enlist for Red Cross, Army or the Navy, the medical profession has been found true to its traditional readiness to answer the call of distress, and has pushed forward with the energy of the man whose whole soul is dedicated to the cause.

California is not behind in this respect. The call of the Surgeon General, in April, for 5000 men has resulted in many additions to the Medical Reserve Corps from this State. The exact figures are not obtainable at present, but according to the most recent returns, California has practically 1000 doctors in service. In many centers hard working committees of the local medical societies have done effective work. This is the time for more of this work and more responses to the call.

The local committee is the effective unit to do this work. In England it has become necessary to organize all committees on this basis. The medical attendance upon the civil population must not be neglected, and only a local committee can satisfactorily adjust the supply of men.

I have assumed all along that all of our members—practically all reputable members of the

profession,—are willing to respond to such positions as may need them—when it can be shown to them that *now* is the time, and this *their* "job." "Place me in *my* position," is, I find, the ruling frame of mind of our members. "But don't put a hardship upon me which should be borne by another." Who shall decide? Every man for himself—this is a voluntary draft. But who can advise? Who can adjust? Who can bring it home to the individual? The local committee.

The members of a local committee can weigh the various problems which affect each case, and impartially advise one to go and another to stay.

We need go no farther than our own local draft boards, to be convinced of the wisdom of our Government in delegating such momentous questions to these local boards. They patiently collect all evidence bearing on a given case, give everyone a hearing and decide upon the evidence.

In a recent letter,¹ the President of the American Medical Association, Dr. Arthur Dean Bevan, calls upon the officers of the State Societies to assist in the organization of the profession for this war. He asks that we furnish a sufficient supply of medical officers for the needs of the army, and that we do it in the way which will least disturb the civilian communities, hospitals and medical schools. He asks that the county medical societies be organized for the purpose of accomplishing the following results:

"1. To secure at least 20 per cent. of the registered practitioners of the State for the medical departments of the Army and Navy.

"2. In securing these men, a careful survey of each county, each medical school and each hospital should be made. No locality and no institu-

1. See correspondence, this issue.

tion unless it is clearly over-supplied should be allowed to furnish more than 50 per cent. of its licensed practitioners; the association will endeavor to co-operate with the medical departments of the Government in securing the necessary protection to communities, hospitals and medical schools.

"3. Although it is desirable to secure at least 20 per cent. from each county, care should be taken to analyze the local conditions, the area of the county, the population of the county, the number of practitioners per capita in the county and as a general proposition, I suggest that at least one physician be retained at home for each 1200 or 1500 population."

We are passing on this appeal to every county Medical Society in the State.

Will you not step up with a prompt response—organize, conscientiously weigh each individual case and provide each unit its quota, for the good of the cause and the everlasting glory of the profession?

CARE OF THE CHILD.

Things every mother must know if the Nation is to meet the health needs of its children as indicated by the draft and still further revealed by the weighing and measuring test are made available by the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor in its bulletin on "Child Care," prepared by Mrs. Max West.

A third of the men examined for military service in the first draft were found to have physical defects which rendered them unfit. Many of these defects might have been overcome if they had been recognized and dealt with in early childhood; the period between two and six is often the time when such defects make their first appearance. "Child Care" has been prepared in the hope that it would enable mothers to understand and recognize symptoms which indicate the need of special care, and also to give mothers the better understanding of the simple laws of hygiene through which it may be possible to prevent the development of such defects at all. It will be especially useful to thousands of mothers who have learned by the weighing and measuring test of defects and weaknesses in their children which need particular attention.

"Child Care" deals with children from two to six years old and is the third issue in the series which began with "Prenatal Care" and "Infant Care." It contains simple rules of health and hygiene, including carefully compiled directions about proper food, suitable clothing, suggestions for play and exercise, for discipline and training. It gives simple menus for young children, and a list of books on child care and training is added. It would be to the advantage of every doctor, especially those in general practice in small towns and rural districts, to have a supply of these bulletins for distribution.

THE CHILDREN'S YEAR IN CALIFORNIA.

Acting for the Children's Bureau, the Women's Committee of the California Council of Defense undertook to organize and conduct a program provided from Washington. The program called for the weighing and measuring of children. It was nation-wide in its scope and it was undertaken with the idea that a valuable mass of statistics would be gathered, and that these figures would enable comparisons to be made between the weights and the heights and the weight-height ratios of children in different parts of the country, as well as between those living in urban and rural communities. The original program did not specially emphasize the part the medical man should play in this survey, and in many parts of the country the profession was not invited to co-operate, with the result that many of the figures gathered must be open to doubt.

It is fortunate that the California Women's Council, led by Dr. Adelaide Brown, had the wisdom to see what need there was that the medical profession should co-operate. Without hesitation they sought and promptly received the endorsement of the California State Medical Society and the aid of its members in this work. That the endorsement was not perfunctory is attested by the fact that of nearly 41,000 children weighed and measured in June, 1918, more than 32,000 were also given physical examination and rating by medical men. This is an average of eight children examined for each registered man in the State of California. Those of the profession who co-operated appreciate to the utmost the immense amount of aid, clerical and physical, provided by the women who joined in the work, and every medical examiner marvels at the splendid power of initiative and organization shown by the women who built up the machine that worked so smoothly and so well.

To have interested the mothers of more than 40,000 children to the degree that they would bring their little ones for appraisalment, was an achievement in preventive medicine and public education that will bear fruit long after the present generation has passed. But this is only the beginning, the 40,000 and odd children examined in all probability constitute about one-tenth of California's quota between 2 and 6 years. October this year and March next, are to be given over to similar drives and it is the duty of every one practicing medicine to use influence until no child of his acquaintance remains unexamined. The fact that 47 per cent.—that is, almost every second child examined—showed remediable defects can but emphasize our duty to the little ones who missed